Apache Plume in the Landscape

*Heidi Kratsch*, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist
*Graham Hunter*, Research Associate, Center for Water Efficient Landscaping

**Fallugia paradoxa**

Apache plume

**Description**: Apache plume is an evergreen shrub that can reach five feet tall and wide in a landscape setting. This plant’s most distinguishing and attractive feature is the feathery, red-turning-pink seedhead that emerges after the white rose-like, five-petaled flower fades. In the same family as Mexican cliffrose, both species produce similar deeply lobed small leaves; Apache plume’s leaves are lighter green and more finely textured. The bark becomes red and exfoliating with age. Apache plume is a dioecious species, requiring both male and female plants to produce viable seed.

**Cultural Requirements**: Occurs on dry slopes and in washes throughout the Southwest. Elevation: 3,500 - 8,000 feet.

- **Native habitat**: Well-drained, prefers gravelly low fertility soils.
- **Cold Tolerance**: Zones 4-10
- **Drought Tolerance**: High; can survive in most conditions with no supplemental water once established.
- **Salt Tolerance**: Low
- **Sun/Shade Preference**: Full sun
- **Transplanting**: Transplant seedlings. Mature plants are more difficult, due to branching tap root.
Propagation: Sow dry or pre-soaked seed directly into container. No cold-stratification is required. Seeds should be covered lightly with perlite or vermiculite to ensure contact with soil. Seed germinates in 10 to 20 days. Seedlings are very susceptible to root rot. Once they have their true leaves, water thoroughly only when the surface of the soil has started to dry out. Transplant as soon as they are well rooted.

Additional Photo:

Photo credits: Heidi Kratsch